

REMARKS

Claims 12-31 remain in this application.

By this amendment, “foot (7)” has been replaced with “head (7)” in claims 12, 13, 30 and 31, and “, in particular a common-rail injection valve,” has been deleted from claim 27.

With regard to the examiner’s objection to the language of claims 29-30, it is pointed out that the steps of these claims include welding the diaphragm and actuator head together without any loading, then inserting this combination into place with a preload. There is no inconsistency in this combination of steps. Moreover, this is as set forth in paragraph 45 of the specification. However, to help improve the understanding of this clause, the phrase “which has been” has been added to claim 30. While this does not change the meaning of the claim, perhaps it does make the meaning somewhat clearer.

With regard to the examiner’s prior art rejection of the claims, it is noted that wording has been added to claims 12 and 28 to indicate that the head has a conical portion, and that the diaphragm is connected to this conical portion. This is unambiguously shown in Figs. 5 through 7. Moreover, this relationship can be found explicitly in the description of the exemplary embodiment in Figs. 5 and 6 as well as Fig. 7, wherein the diaphragm 41 includes a conical region 42 and the diaphragm 51 includes a conical region 53, at which regions they are each welded to the actuator head 7.

None of the references show even the slightest indication of this structure, a conical actuator head 7 and conical diaphragm region 42. The embodiment of the actuator head 7 and of the diaphragm 41, 51 both having a conical shape makes possible an especially advantageous connection and securing of the components to one another, since with such an

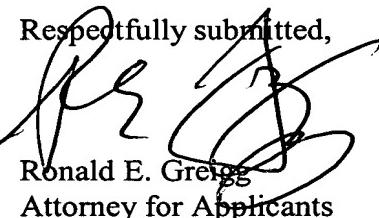
Appl. No. 10/509,590
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Reply to Office action of June 7, 2006

arrangement, the mechanical stresses involved on the diaphragm are very slight. And further, the shape of these elements makes it possible to complete the welding process with manipulations of the head and diaphragm which are made easier by their shape.

Accordingly, none of the prior art teaches the specific structure recited in each of the claims now of record. And further, it has been pointed out how the specific shape of these elements makes the assembly process easier and gives particular advantages for the resulting structure.

For the above reasons, entry of this amendment and allowance of the claims are courteously solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge a fee of \$120.00, for a first month extension of time as specified in the fee schedule for 2006, or any other necessary fees in connection with this communication, to Deposit Account No. 07-2100.

Respectfully submitted,

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